EPISODE 20

CURSE OF THE SCARLET FOX III

LIKE I THOUGHT, PEOPLE REALLY DO... DIE FROM CURSES.
KAZAOKA, LET ME HEAR YOUR HYPOTHESIS.

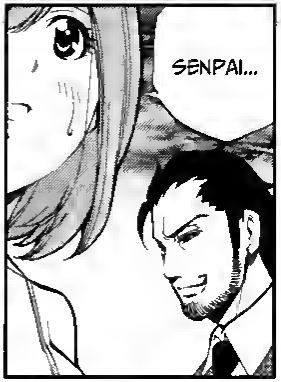
I FIGURE THAT THE FIRST ONE TO DIE WAS,
THE ELDEST SON.

!?
IT WAS AN UN-BELIEVABLY IMPROBABLE ACCIDENT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HOWEVER, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT HE WAS MURDERED.

DO YOU MEAN... THAT HE DIED FROM A CURSE?
AN UNTHINKABLE TRAGEDY TOOK THE ELDEST SON'S LIFE.
WE'RE GOING TO END UP DYING FROM THE CURSE IF WE KEEP ON DOING THIS!!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY, SENPAI!
IT HAS TO HAVE BEEN A CURSE!
I CAN'T SAY THAT HE DIDN'T.
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE, WE MIGHT ACTUALLY DIE!
KINOSHITA... WE CAN'T DO THAT.
SENPAI, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ALWAYS DO THIS...
KINO-SHITA.
SEN-PAI!
.....
SFX. CRASH

I SOLVE THE CASE THAT'S PUT BEFORE ME, NOTHING ELSE...

...KAZAOKA, SO THE ELDEST SON DIED FROM A CURSE...
AND THE MIDDLE AND YOUNGEST SONS WERE MURDERED...
...IS WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?


SENPAI...

YES.
IT'S LIKELY THAT THE MIDDLE AND YOUNGEST SONS WERE MURDERED.

WHO,
...THEN WHO KILLED THEM?
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE...
!
CALLING
SFX: RING RING
IT'S THE SUPER-INTENDENT GENERAL OF THE METRO POLICE...
POLICE HEADQUARTERS

WE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING AT THE MOMENT... HOWEVER,
HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ANYTHING YET?

NIKAIDO-KUN?
YES.
SUPER-INTENDENT GENERAL OF THE METRO POLICE

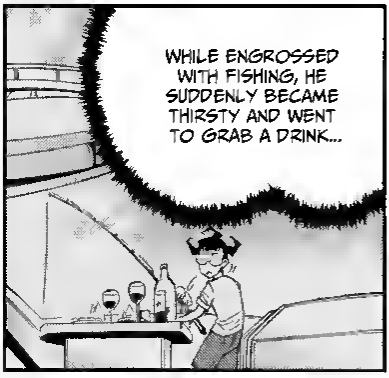
WHY ARE THEY DEAD!?
HOW!!! MY... MY... PRECIOUS HEIRS!!!
SFX: THUMP!
HISABISHI GROUP PRESIDENT HISABISHI GONZO

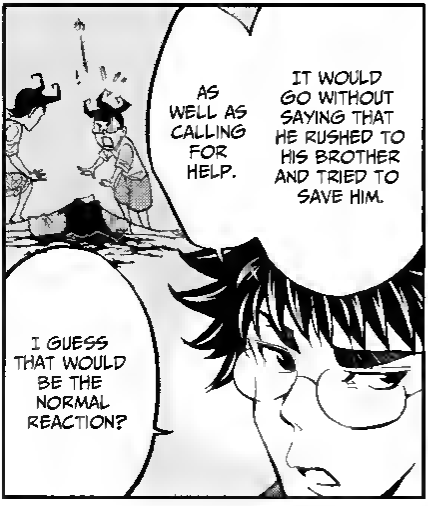
!
REGRET-FULLY... ALL THREE OF THE SONS WERE FOUND DEAD.
SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL OF THE METRO POLICE

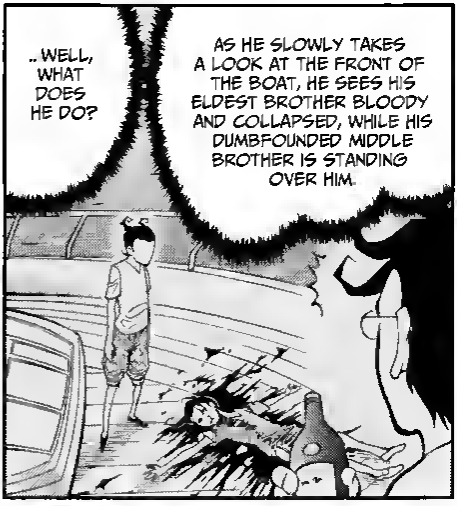
SUPERINTENDENT, I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER WITH THE DETAILS.
SHUT UP!!
HAA
HAA
...HISABISHI-SAMA, GETTING TOO WORKED UP WILL STRESS YOUR HEART...
SFX. SLUMP
AL-RIGHT.
KAZAOKA, CONTINUE YOUR EXPLANATION.
SFX. GLEAM
SFX. BEEP
THERE, AND
THERE. THEY WERE EACH FISHING ON THEIR OWN.
AND THE MIDDLE AND YOUNGEST SONS WERE ON OPPOSITE SIDES NEAR THE BACK.
FIRSTLY, THE ELDEST SON WAS HERE,

SFX: TAH-DAH
SUZUMORI-SAN. LET'S ACT AS IF YOU WERE THE YOUNGEST SON.
O, OKAY...
Something like this?

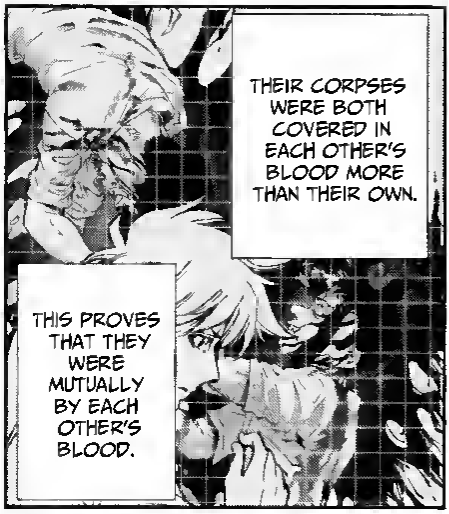
THEY WERE ALL AT ANGLES WHERE THEY WERE UNABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER.
IN SHORT, EACH BROTHER HADN'T A CLUE AS TO WHAT THE OTHER TWO WERE DOING.


WHILE ENGROSSED WITH FISHING, HE SUDDENLY BECAME THIRSTY AND WENT TO GRAB A DRINK...


AS WELL AS CALLING FOR HELP.
IT WOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT HE RUSHED TO HIS BROTHER AND TRIED TO SAVE HIM.
I GUESS THAT WOULD BE THE NORMAL REACTION?


..WELL, WHAT DOES HE DO?
AS HE SLOWLY TAKES A LOOK AT THE FRONT OF THE BOAT, HE SEES HIS ELDEST BROTHER BLOODY AND COLLAPSED, WHILE HIS DUMBFOUNDED MIDDLE BROTHER IS STANDING OVER HIM.

HUH?
?
THESE THREE BROTHERS AREN'T NORMAL AT ALL... DON'T YOU THINK?
I AGREE, HOWEVER...
WAIT A SECOND! I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE GOOD FRIENDS. THE PICTURE FROM BEFORE PROVES IT!
INDEED IT DOES.. HOWEVER, DETECTIVE SUZUMORI...
THE YOUNGEST SON DISCOVERED HIS BROTHER'S CORPSE OUT OF NOWHERE... AND RIGHT THEN THE MIDDLE SON, KNOWING THAT NO ONE ELSE WAS AROUND, SUSPECTED THAT THE YOUNGEST SON KILLED HIM.
IT'S LIKELY THAT THOUGHTS OF THEIR LARGE INHERITANCE PRODUCED FEAR AND SUSPICION IN THE MINDS OF THE REMAINING TWO.
THEY ARE THE THREE HEIRS TO THE HISABISHI FAMILY, WHOSE ASSETS AMOUNT TO ONE TRILLION YEN!


THEIR CORPSES WERE BOTH COVERED IN EACH OTHER'S BLOOD MORE THAN THEIR OWN.
THIS PROVES THAT THEY WERE MUTUALLY BY EACH OTHER'S BLOOD.

.....

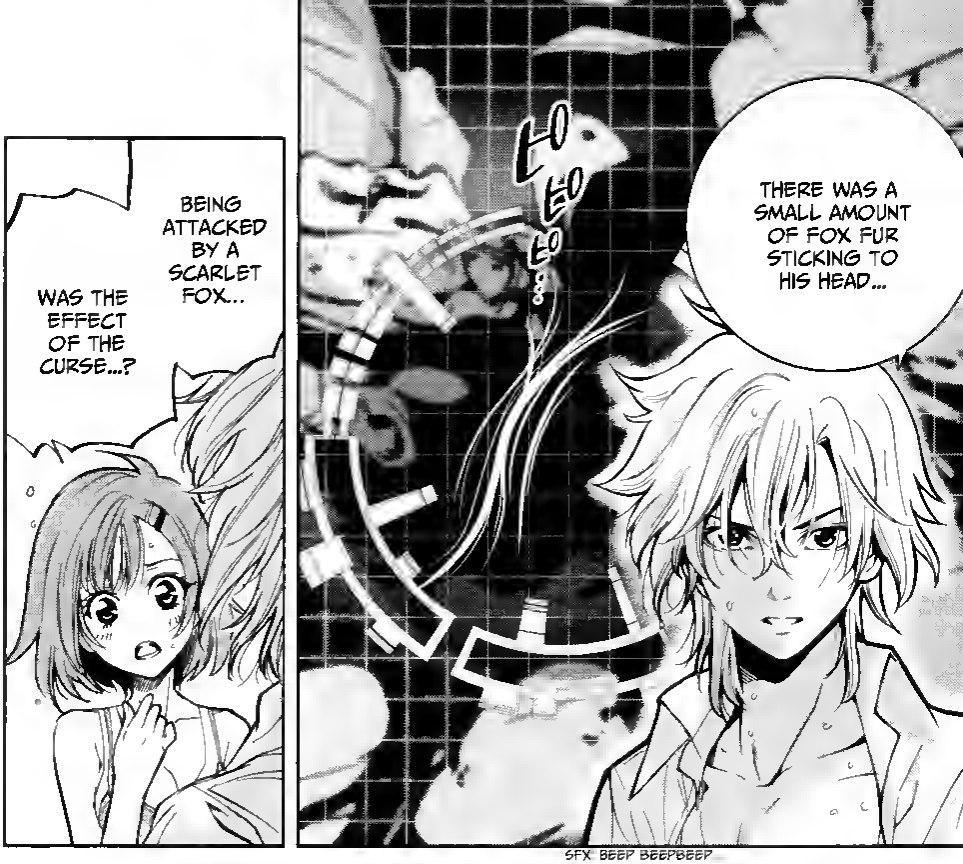
STANDING IN FRONT OF THE CORPSE, THIS IS WHAT THE TWO BROTHERS WERE THINKING.
THIS WASN'T AN ACCIDENT... IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE MURDERER WAS MY OWN BROTHER.
IF I DON'T KILL HIM, I'LL BE NEXT...!

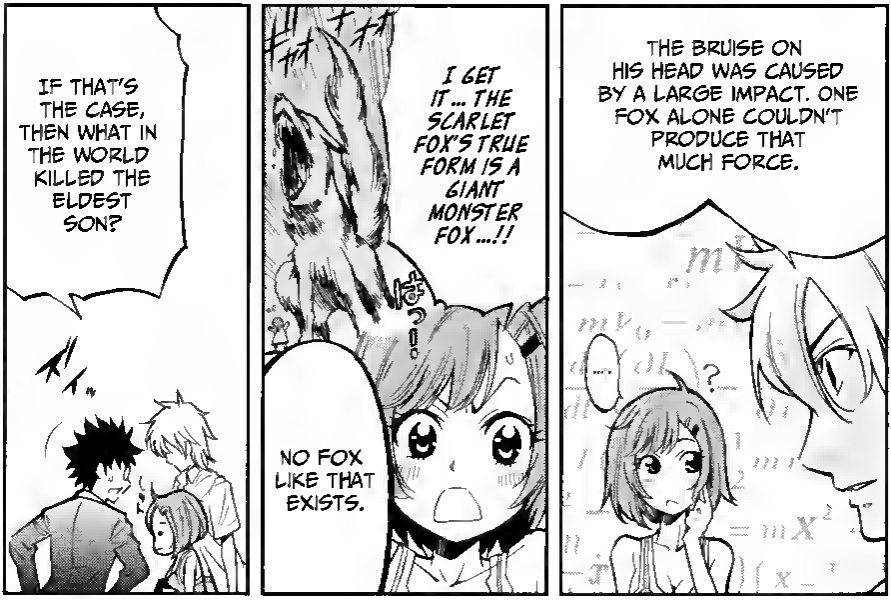
SPL-ASH

WHILE THE YOUNGEST SON FOUGHT WITH A WINE BOTTLE.

THE MIDDLE SON CHOSE A WRENCH,

SFX THUD
FATALLY WOUNDED, THEY BOTH DIED FROM LOSS OF BLOOD...
SFX: CRACK
THE RESULT...
SFX COLLAPSE
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU SAID "I CAN'T SAY IT WASN'T A CURSE"...
THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ELDEST SON, WHO DIED IN THE BEGINNING?
SFX BEEP BEEP
THE ELDEST BROTHER'S HEAD WOUND TURNED OUT TO BE FATAL.


BEING ATTACKED BY A SCARLET FOX...
WAS THE EFFECT OF THE CURSE...?
THERE WAS A SMALL AMOUNT OF FOX FUR STICKING TO HIS HEAD...
SFX: BEEP BEEPBEEP


IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHAT IN THE WORLD KILLED THE ELDEST SON?
SFX: STARE
I GET IT... THE SCARLET FOX'S TRUE FORM IS A GIANT MONSTER FOX...!!
NO FOX LIKE THAT EXISTS.
THE BRUISE ON HIS HEAD WAS CAUSED BY A LARGE IMPACT. ONE FOX ALONE COULDN'T PRODUCE THAT MUCH FORCE.

HE WASN'T HIT BY A PERSON.
A FOX CAME DOWN FROM THE SKY.
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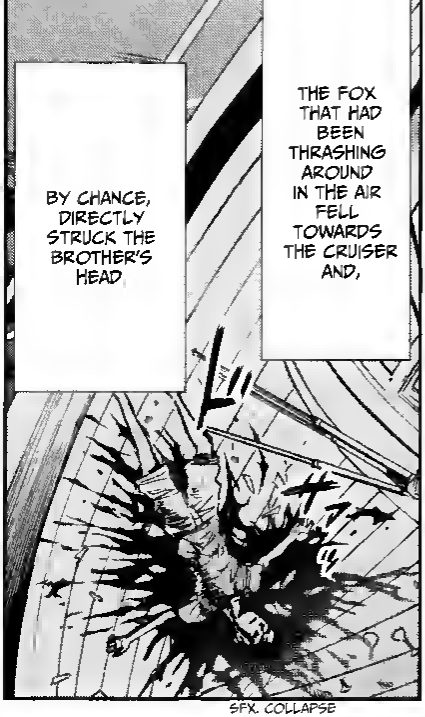
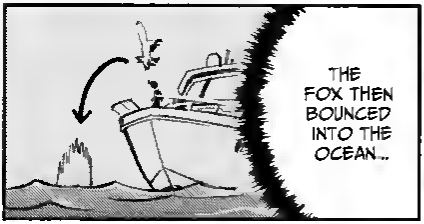
SFX: WIND ROARING
THE FOX ITSELF WAS ATTACKED.
I DON'T THINK THAT A FOX TRIED TO ATTACK A HUMAN.
!?
THERE AREN'T ANY FOXES ON THE BOAT!! ARE YOU SAYING THAT A FOX JUST GREW WINGS, ATTACKED THE ELDEST SON, AND FLEW AWAY!?
TH, THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD BE IT!

SCREEE...
THE ONE THAT DROPPED THE FOX FROM THE SKY WAS...
A GOLDEN EAGLE!!!!!

NO PERSON GOES NEAR AKATSU ISLAND.
HOWEVER, FOR THE FOXES, A UNIQUE AIRBORNE ENEMY EXISTS A HUGE, MYSTERIOUS BIRD THAT WOULD PREY ON THEM.
THE ONE THAT CAPTURED A FOX AND DROPPED IT FROM THE SKY WAS A GOLDEN EAGLE.
TH THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE EAGLE COULDN'T POSSIBLY AIM FOR THE ELDEST SON'S HEA...
I DON'T THINK AN EAGLE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT
THE CHANCES OF IT HAPPENING ARE SO SMALL IT'S LIKE A SPIRIT WAS CONTROLLING ITS BODY...
THE FOX THAT THE EAGLE DROPPED HAD, BY CHANCE,
DIRECTLY STRUCK THE ELDEST SON'S HEAD!
THE EAGLE SWOOPED DOWN ON A FOX AT AKATSU ISLAND, DUG ITS CLAWS INTO THE FOX'S TORSO, AND CARRIED IT ALL THE WAY HERE.
THE THREE BROTHERS WERE ENGROSSED IN THEIR FISHING, SO IT'S NATURAL THAT THEY DIDN'T NOTICE.


THE FOX THAT HAD BEEN THRASHING AROUND IN THE AIR FELL TOWARDS THE CRUISER AND,
BY CHANCE, DIRECTLY STRUCK THE BROTHER'S HEAD
SFX. COLLAPSE

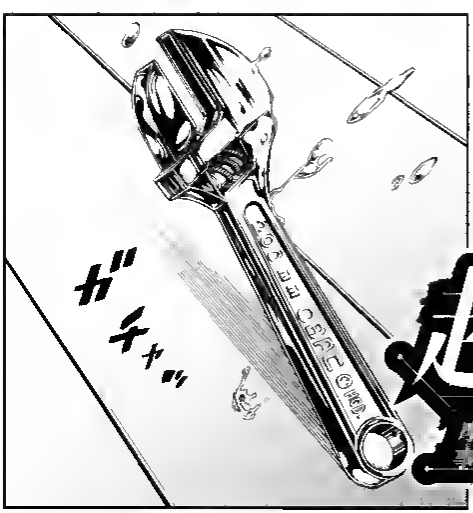

THE FOX THEN BOUNCED INTO THE OCEAN..

THE ELDEST BROTHER WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN FISHING, HE HADN'T NOTICED THE FOX THAT WAS FALLING TOWARDS HIM..

SFX. BONK

HERE'S A FEATHER THAT FELL FROM A GOLDEN EAGLE ON AKATSU ISLAND. ALSO, THERE WAS A FOX CORPSE THAT WASHED UP ONTO THE ISLAND'S SHORE.
IF YOU INSPECT THE DNA FROM THAT FOX'S BLOOD, I EXPECT IT WILL MATCH THE BLOOD COVERING THE ELDEST BROTHER'S CORPSE.
Where did ya just pull that from
SFX: SLIP
AKATSU ISLAND.... RECLAIM THAT ISLAND,
ERASE IT FROM THIS WORLD... UGUAHHH!!!!
WHAT!? THE CURSE OF THE SCARLET FOX...!? MY SONS ARE THE HEIRS TO THE GREAT HISADISHI GROUP!!!
THE HISA-BISHI RESI-DENCE
GONZO-SAMA!
GONZO-SAMA!!!
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
...!

SENPAI, I THINK THAT CURSES REALLY DO EXIST...
THE CURSE OF THE SCARLET FOX, HUH...
A FOX FALLING FROM THE SKY IS AN EXCEEDINGLY UNLIKELY ACCIDENT,
THAT'S THE FIRST THING WE SHOULD BE DOUBTING.
PROVING THAT... CURSES DON'T EXIST
IS SOMETHING THAT NO ONE CAN DO.



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